

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
Nevada Division of State Parks
Lake Tahoe State Park Vegetation Management Project
FEMA-1540-DR-NV, HMGP #1540-2-5


The Nevada Division of State Parks (State Parks) has applied, through the State of Nevada Division of Emergency Management (NDEM), to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for funds to implement a vegetation management project in the Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park (Park) in Washoe County, Nevada. FEMA is proposing to fund the project through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) under the presidential disaster declaration FEMA-1540-DR-NV for the Waterfall Fire, which occurred in 2004.

State Parks proposes to reduce the risk of wildfires in the eastern portion of the Park by creating fuel breaks along several park access roads. These fuel breaks would extend a maximum of 150 feet on either side of the centerline of the roads. In addition, fuel reduction activities would occur at two primitive camping areas and at an historical structure, Hannah's Cabin, which are all located adjacent to or near to the linear fuel breaks. In general, treatment activities would involve reducing the density of live trees, dead trees and downed logs, and general biomass within the priority zones. Trees identified as being hazardous to public safety would be removed. All standing dead trees would be cut. Stems usable as fuelwood (cordwood) would be cut, moved to roadside areas, and stacked. All other biomass would be chipped, piled and burned, or burned in place. Burn piles would be approximately 4 feet tall and 5 feet in diameter. Trimming, tree felling, and other cutting activities would be conducted using hand tools. Staging areas would occur on the existing dirt roads. Chippers, log splitter, and other mechanized equipment would be used at staging areas. Project work would occur in the spring, summer, and fall after the ground has dried from the winter thaw. Treatment activities would likely occur for 75 days each year, over a 3-year period. All activities would occur while avoiding sensitive resources.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, FEMA has prepared a Final Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Lake Tahoe State Park Vegetation Management Project (July 2007) to evaluate the impacts of the Proposed Action on the human environment. The Final EA was prepared after a Draft EA was submitted for public review and comment. FEMA received no comments on the Draft EA. The Final EA is available online at www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region9.shtm.

Based upon the conditions and the information contained in the Final EA, and in accordance with FEMA's regulations in 44 CFR Part 10 (Environmental Considerations), the following is concluded:

A Finding of No Significant Impact. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared, based on the fact that there will be no long-term adverse impacts to the natural environment resulting from the Proposed Action. For more information, contact the undersigned at (510) 627-7027.


Alessandro Amaglio
Region IX Environmental Officer

7/20/07
Date